

## Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMCONSUL MILAN

AMEMBASSY ROME

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 223989

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OTRA, IT

SUBJECT:VISIT OF OFFICIAL MILAN DELEGATION ATTENDING LA  
SCALA OPENING

REF: MILAN 1937

1. MAYOR TOGNOLI AND MILAN CITY DELEGATION DEPARTED  
WASHINGTON AFTERNOON SEPT 8 FOR NEW YORK. THEIR VISIT IN  
WASHINGTON WAS LARGELY UNEVENTFUL AND, ACCORDING TO DEPT  
INTERPRETER, A SUCCESS IN THEIR EYES.

2. THE MAYOR AND HIS GROUP WERE INCLUDED IN MOST OF THE  
FESTIVITIES SURROUNDING THE LA SCALA OPENING. THE ITALIAN  
EMBASSY ARRANGED APPOINTMENTS WITH MAYOR WASHINGTON'S OFFICE  
(THE DC MAYOR HIMSELF WAS OUT OF TOWN) AND AT THE NATIONAL  
INSTITUTES OF HEALTH. THE TOGNOLIS ATTENDED AMBASSADOR  
GAJA'S DINNER IN HONOR OF MRS. LEONE AT WHICH THE VICE  
PRESIDENT AND MRS. ROCKEFELLER WERE THE RANKING AMERICAN  
GUESTS.

3. MAYOR TOGNOLI, ACCOMPANIED ONLY BY DEPARTMENT INTERPRET-  
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ER, CALLED ON ASSISTANT SECRETARY HARTMAN IN THE DEPARTMENT

ON SEPT 8. A MEMORANDUM OF CONVERSATION WILL FOLLOW.

4. DEPARTMENT'S DECISION TO RECEIVE ONLY TOGNOLI AT THE DEPARTMENT WAS BASED UPON OUR BELIEF THAT TO HAVE THE MAYOR REPRESENT THE ENTIRE DELEGATION WAS THE BEST SOLUTION TO PROBLEM POSED BY PCI PARTICIPATION IN THE GROUP. AT THE TIME OF REACHING THIS DECISION, DEPARTMENT WAS UNAWARE OF GIUSEPPE ABBONDANZA'S PRE-1967 MEMBERSHIP IN THE PCI, INFORMATION WHICH REACHED US ONLY AFTER THE APPOINTMENT HAD TAKEN PLACE.

5. SINGLE INCIDENT DURING VISIT WAS MISQUOTATION OF PCI DELEGATION MEMBER TARAMELLI BY WASHINGTON POST IN ITS COVERAGE OF LA SCALA OPENING, WHERE CURTAIN WAS DELAYED 55 MINUTES BECAUSE OF MALFUNCTIONING OF THE MACHINERY WHICH LOWERS THE ORCHESTRA PIT. THE WASHINGTON POST QUOTED TARAMELLI AS SAYING THAT HE WAS UNIMPRESSED WITH THE KENNEDY CENTER AND THAT SUCH AN INCIDENT WOULD NOT HAVE OCCURRED AT THE BOLSHOI. TARAMELLI HAD INTERPRETER CONTACT THE DEPT TO MAKE CLEAR THAT HE HAD SAID NO SUCH THING TO A REPORTER OR ANYONE ELSE. TARAMELLI IN FACT SPEAKS NO ENGLISH.

6. REPRESENTATIVES OF ITALIAN PRESS IN WASHINGTON HAVE CONTACTED THE DEPARTMENT TO ASK WHETHER PCI MEMBERS OF THE DELEGATION WERE RECEIVED HERE. AS NOTED ABOVE, ONLY MAYOR TOGNOLI CALLED AT THE DEPARTMENT, AND WE HAVE MADE THIS CLEAR TO INQUIRERS. NEVERTHELESS, IT IS NOT IMPOSSIBLE THAT STORIES MAY APPEAR IN THE ITALIAN PRESS INDICATING INCREASED ATTENTION BY THE US GOVERNMENT TO PCI OFFICIALS. KISSINGER

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